

J. SLOPER & CO. - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

One of the former directors of J. Sloper & Co. Ltd., MR.E.F.LAVER, informs me that during the war, the Tower Royal Works at West Hampstead worked two 12 hour shifts mainly on the production of spare parts for the Ministry of Aircraft. It should be remembered that first and foremost Sloper's were a light engineering works, not a firm which dealt exclusively with the perforation of stamps. The 1941 blitz of London wiped out the offices at 22 Budge Row, not the works at West Hampstead.

Mr. Laver also has been able to identify two perfin dies which were associated with the company. When Percy Sloper, the bachelor son of Joseph, died in the early 1930's, a Mr. R. T. Firminger acquired the Company. He became the Governing Director and when he died, this position was assumed by his widow, Marjorie Firminger. They were both supplied with stamps for their personal use perforated with their initials - RTF and MMF.

Bulletin 248 Pg.12 shows the Sloper 5 Reigns card with the RTF perfin - which die was unknown until that date (1990) - and Bulletin 260 Pg.19 shows another of these Sloper 5 Reigns card with the MMF perfin - again an unknown die.

I would venture to suggest that these two perfins are very rare. To test this theory, could you let me know if you have a copy of either of these perfins? I will report back in the next Bulletin.

* * * *